

State of Michigan
State Board of Education

RESOLUTION

Support of Michigan Libraries

WHEREAS, in 1963 the framers of the Michigan Constitution ensured that all residents of Michigan were entitled to library services; and

WHEREAS, the right to borrow books impacts the learning and development of Michigan's citizens - children and parents alike; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII of the Michigan Constitution gives Michigan residents a constitutional right to borrow books from any library in Michigan, subject to the right of the library to charge a reasonable fee to recover actual costs incurred in the borrowing; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has said that the fee must not exceed the costs incurred by the library in making borrowing available to nonresidents; and

WHEREAS, under the State Aid to Public Libraries Act, the Legislature provides State Aid to public libraries through the Library of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, libraries exist to provide services, and library services include modern technology, e.g. free computer access; and fundamental services, e.g. reading rooms and lending books; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education agrees with the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries; and the Michigan Libraries Association that libraries provide valuable services to Michigan's citizens; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education supports the right of all Michigan citizens to read, particularly in these times of global competition; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education believes that all Michigan residents, especially students, should enjoy full access to library resources, particularly in these times of global competition.



Adopted April 10, 2007

Kathleen N. Straus, President

Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman and
Superintendent of Public Instruction